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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

(Original) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient, the multi-media message being created by a sender for delivery by an animated entity, the method comprising:

recording an audio message from the sender;

receiving a choice of one of a plurality of animated entities to deliver the message; conforming the audio message to movements associated with the animated entity to create a multi-media message; and

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient with the animated entity speaking the recorded audio message from the sender.

2. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, further comprising:

after recording the audio message from the sender, converting the audio message to a text message and presenting a text version of the audio message to the sender; and

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient upon approval of the text message from the sender.

(Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,
 wherein the multi-media message is sent as an e-mail to the recipient.

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- 4. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent as an instant message to the recipient.
- 5. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent over the Internet to the recipient
- 6. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent to the recipient via a wireless network.
- 7. (Original) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of animated entities, the method comprising:

recording a sender audio message;

associating the sender audio message with the animated entity to create the multimedia message; and

processing the multi-media message for the recipient such that the animated entity speaks the sender audio message.

8. (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein associating the sender audio message with the animated entity further comprises:

using an automatic speech recognition system to convert the audio message to a text message;

presenting the text message to the sender; and

after receiving approval from the sender for the text message, using the text message to coordinate mouth movements for the animated entity.

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9. (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the multi-media message is sent over the Internet.

10. (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent in an instant message.

11. (Original) The method of sending a multimedia message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent over a wireless network.

12. (Original) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient, the multi-

media message being created by a sender for delivery by an animated entity, the method

comprising:

receiving a text message from the sender;

recording a sender audio message corresponding to the text message;

receiving a choice of one of a plurality of animated entities to deliver the message;

conforming the sender audio message to movements associated with the animated

entity to create a multi-media message; and

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient with the animated entity speaking

the recorded audio message from the sender.

13. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim

12, further comprising:

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient upon approval of the sender audio

message by the sender.

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14. (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim

12, further comprising:

recording the sender audio message corresponding to the text message after the sender makes a request to input an audible version of the text message.

15. (Original) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of animated entities, the method comprising:

receiving a text message from the sender;

recording a sender audio message corresponding to the text message;

associating the sender audio message with the animated entity to create the multimedia message; and

processing the multi-media message for the recipient such that the animated entity speaks the sender audio message.

16. (Original) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of animated entities, the method comprising:

receiving a text message from the sender;

recording a sender audio message corresponding to the text message;

conforming the audio message to movements associated with the animated entity to create a multi-media message; and

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient, wherein the animated entity uses a synthesized voice having characteristics associated with the recorded sender audio message.

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- 17. (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient using an animated entity of claim 16, wherein the synthesized voice includes an accent of the sender voice.
- 18. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics, the method comprising:

receiving an audio recording, associated with a message, from [[the]] a sender; parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters; and using the audio parameters, synthesizing a voice for delivery of the message that is not the sender's voice but includes at least one sender voice characteristic.

- 19. (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics of claim 18, wherein the at least one sender voice characteristic is one of an accent, voice inflection, pitch, rhythm, or dialect.
- 20. (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics of claim 18, further comprising, before receiving the audio recording, receiving a text version of a message associated with the audio recording.
- 21. (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics of claim 18, further comprising, after receiving the audio recording, using an automatic speech recognizer and presenting a text version of the audio recording to the sender for approval before parameterizing the audio recording.
- 22. (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice characteristics of claim 18, wherein parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters

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further comprises using an alignment program for segmenting the audio recording into phonemes and labeling the audio recording with the phonemes, duration, pitch, stress and other parameters.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of synthesizing a non-sender voice with sender voice characteristics, the method comprising:

receiving a text message from the a sender;

receiving an audio recording from the sender associated with the text message;

parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters using segmentation; and
using the audio parameters, synthesizing the non-sender voice to have sender voice
characteristics.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of synthesizing a non-sender voice with sender voice characteristics of claim 23, wherein the sender voice characteristics comprise at least one of accent, voice inflection, pitch, rhythm, or dialect.